Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

CURSE OF THE SPAWN

TODD McFARLANE & IMAGE COMICS™ PRESENTS:

"CARNIVAL OF SOULS"

STORY
ALAN McELROY
PENCILS
DWAYNE TURNER
INKS
DANNY MIKI
COPY EDITOR & LETTERS
TOM ORZECHOWSKI
COLOR
TODD BROEKER
MARK NICHOLAS
A SPECIAL THANKS TO:
JOHN GORDON

DEDICATED TO:
ROBERT & CAROL BROEKER

FOR IMAGE COMICS™
LARRY MARDER
Executive Director

Curse of the Spawn #7 Summary:
Sam and Twitch are warned off of the missing Gretchen Culver case by the Internal Affairs Division of the NYPD. They ignore the warning and look for the paramedics to question them. They find them "sutured-up." Later, across town, they "interview" Officer Kenny Osborne at gunpoint. Meanwhile, when Jeremiah "Sharpie" Euden nearly claims another victim, Suture interrupts his work and a ferocious battle ensues with Sharpie on the losing end. Later, Sharpie's body makes a gruesome appearance at the NYPD precinct courtesy of Suture who then surrenders.

CURSE OF THE SPAWN #8 April 1997. First Printing. Published by IMAGE COMICS 1440 N. Harbor Boulevard, Suite 305, Fullerton, CA 92635. $1.95/$2.70 in Canada. Spawn®, its logo and its symbol are registered trademarks 1997 of Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All other related characters are Trademark™ and Copyright© 1997 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All rights reserved. Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Todd McFarlane. PRINTED IN CANADA.

President of Entertainment, Publishing & Licensing: TERRY FITZGERALD
Graphics Coordinator: JULIA SIMMONS Editorial Coordinator: MELANIE SIMMONS

CHECK OUT THE SPAWN WEB SITE AT... http://www.spawn.com

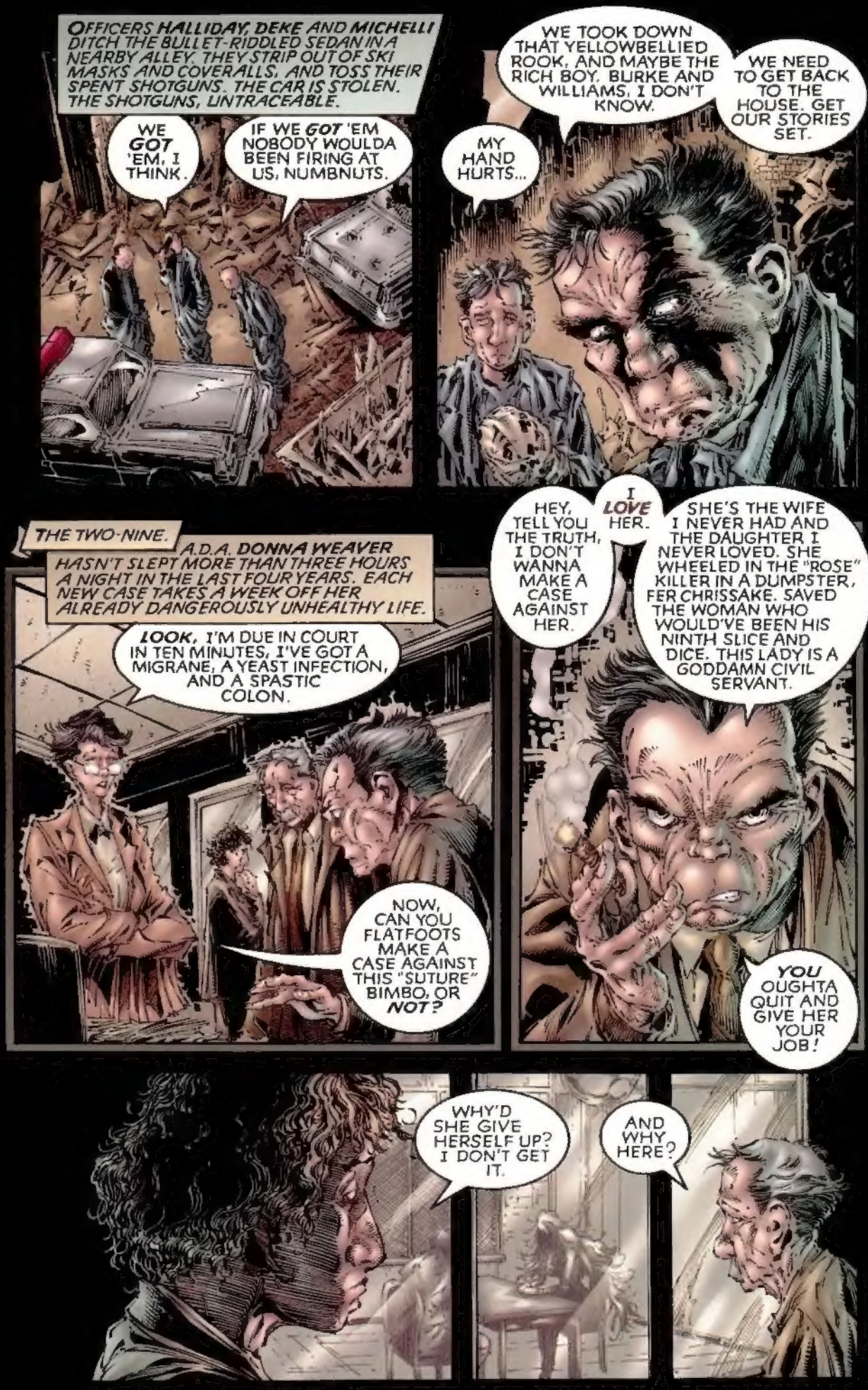
MANHATTAN'S 29th PRECINCT. THE ROACH INFESTED HOLDING CELLS.
SURVIVAL IS OFTEN A GAME OF PATIENCE. A TIME OF WAITING. DORMANCY. INACTION. COILS IN SLOW MOTION WIND. SILENT. DEADLY.
A CORPSE CAN WAIT A THOUSAND LIFETIMES FOR WHAT IT NEEDS.
SUTURE KNOWS THAT WHAT SHE SEEKS WILL COME FAR SOONER.
FOR NOW, SHE TRIES NOT TO DWELL ON **LOSS**. MURDERED NERVE ENDINGS CAN'T SHUT OUT THE SOULDEEP PAIN THAT HAUNTS HER. THE WOMAN SHE WAS, **GRETCHEN CULVER**, IS GONE FOREVER. CUT TO PIECES BY A NIGHTMARE MAN NAMED **SHARPIE EUDEN**. LOADED INTO A PAIR OF GARBAGE BAGS AND TOSSED INTO THE EAST RIVER. REFUSE. HUMAN LIFE.
NO MORE. **PAYMENT** IS DUE. WITH **INTEREST**. THE PARAMEDICS HAVE PAID. SHARPIE HAS PAID. BUT THE OTHERS... THE OTHERS...
TWENTY HOURS OF QUESTIONS HAVE YIELDED NOTHING. DETECTIVES EDLAND, BRAYDE, AND SPARKS HAVE NO MORE ANSWERS THAN WHEN THEY STARTED.
FINGERPRINTS CAME BACK NIL. HER SKIN'S TOO BADLY DAMAGED.
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO HER, IT'S AMAZING SHE'S EVEN ALIVE.
NO ONE NOTICES ON THE MONITOR THE SMALL SMILE CREASE SUTURE'S LIPS.

IT HAS HEAVED FORTH FROM KENNY OSBORNE'S LIPS IN A BILIOUS HEAVE: THE RAPE AND SUBSEQUENT MURDER OF AN INNOCENT WOMAN. GRETCHEN CULVER. A VICTIM OF CIRCUMSTANCES.
YOU ARE ONE SICK SON OF A BITCH.
MY GOD... -sob-
...GRETCHEN...
I DIDN'T WANNA DO IT. TH-THEY MADE ME, OKAY? THEY SAID I HAD TO.
YOU'RE DEAD, YOU PUTRID SACK OF RAT-VOMIT! I'M REACH DOWN YOUR THROAT AND RIP OUT YOUR PROSTATE, YOU GODLESS PUKE!
HEY. WATCH THE FURNITURE.
YAAH!
LET ME GO, GOD-DAMMIT!
WE NEED THIS PUS-POT ALIVE, WAYNE. YOU WHACK THIS TURD AND WE GOT NO-THING ON HALLIDAY AND THE OTHERS. THEY WALK.
KRAK!
THANKS FOR GETTING HIM OFF ME.
DON'T MENTION IT.
THUD!

ALRIGHT, LISTEN UP, SKIDMARK. YOU'RE GOING TO DO A LITTLE SINGING.
A TRIP DOWNTOWN TO SPEAK WITH DETECTIVE SPARKS MAY BE IN ORDER, SIR. TO REPORT A HOMICIDE.
MORE POLICE.
BASTARDS...
JUST DON'T TAKE ME TO THE TWO-NINE. THEY SEE ME WITH YOU GUYS, I'M DEAD.
AW, WOULDN'T THAT BE A SHAME. MOVE IT, HAIRBAG.
NO ONE NOTICES THE SEDAN AS IT TRAILS AWAY FOR THE CURB. SKI MASKS ON THE DRIVER AND THE TWO PASSENGERS.
CAR'S THIS WAY.
BY THE TIME THE SEDAN SCREAMS FORWARD IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE. SHOTGUNS EMERGE FROM WINDOWS. SAM AND TWITCH MOVE TO PROTECT THE UNARMED WHILE DRAWING THEIR OWN WEAPONS.
SKREE

THE WORLD EXPLODES WITH DOUBLE-AUGHT. ITHACA PUMP-ACTIONS LAY DOWN TEN-GAUGE CATACLYSM ALONG THE RUNDOWN AVENUE.
KRUUM!
KRUUM!
KRUUM!
INTERNAL ORGANS RUPTURE AND FAIL. FLESH RIPPLES UNDER IMPACT TRAUMA. PAIN IS NOT IMMEDIATE. THE BODY THROWS ITS CIRCUIT BREAKERS WHEN FACED WITH THIS LEVEL OF PHYSICAL DEVASTATION.
SAM BURKE DOESN'T FEEL THE BULLET SLASH THROUGH HIS FOREARM.
DOWN! DOWN!
KRAS
NNAAAH!
BOOM! BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!
TWITCH SHUTS OUT THE CHAOS AS HE ALWAYS DOES WHEN FOCUSED ON A TARGET. BARELY SENSES HIS FRESH LEG WOUND. BUT HIS TARGET IS ALREADY SPEEDING OUT OF RANGE.
THE CUSTOM REBALANCED .44 MAGNUM GOES OFF LIKE A HOWITZER AS IT DELIVERS FULLY JACKETED TEFLON ROUNDS.

KRRASH!
THE SEDAN VEERS AROUND A NEAR CORNER AND NARROWLY DODGES OUT OF TWITCH WILLIAMS' DEADLY SECTOR OF FIRE.
THE STREET IS A WAR-ZONE. PEDESTRIANS, USED TO THE OCCA-SIONAL DRIVE-BY, NONETHELESS RUN FOR COVER.
YOUR ARM, SIR.
A SCRATCH. CHECK TANNAGER.
TWITCH CAN TELL BY THE DARK COLOR OF TANNA-GER'S BLOOD. HE'S TAKEN TWO TO THE CHEST. ONE HAS SEVERED HIS AORTA. TANNAGER'S LIFE IS NOW MEASURED IN SECONDS.
GRETCHEN... IF YOU FIND HER...
PLEASE... FOR HER ...
TWITCH TAKES THE RINGBOX AS WAYNE TANNAGER EXHALES HIS LAST BREATH.
KENNY OSBORNE HAS BEEN BLOWN IN HALF. AND SAM KNOWS THAT WITHOUT THE ROOKIE'S STATEMENT, HALLIDAY AND THE OTHERS WILL REMAIN FREE MEN.


OFFICERS HALLIDAY, DEKE AND MICHELLI DITCH THE BULLET-RIDDLED SEDAN IN A NEARBY ALLEY. THEY STRIP OUT OF SKI MASKS AND COVERALLS, AND TOSS THEIR SPENT SHOTGUNS. THE CAR IS STOLEN. THE SHOTGUNS, UNTRACEABLE.
WE GOT 'EM, I THINK.
IF WE GOT 'EM NOBODY WOULDA BEEN FIRING AT US, NUMBNUTS.
WE TOOK DOWN THAT YELLOWBELLIED ROOK, AND MAYBE THE RICH BOY, BURKE AND WILLIAMS, I DON'T KNOW.
WE NEED TO GET BACK TO THE HOUSE. GET OUR STORIES SET.
MY HAND HURTS...
THE TWO-NINE.
A.D.A. DONNA WEAVER HASN'T SLEPT MORE THAN THREE HOURS A NIGHT IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS. EACH NEW CASE TAKES A WEEK OFF HER ALREADY DANGEROUSLY UNHEALTHY LIFE.
LOOK, I'M DUE IN COURT IN TEN MINUTES, I'VE GOT A MIGRAINE, A YEAST INFECTION, AND A SPASTIC COLON.
NOW, CAN YOU FLATFOOTS MAKE A CASE AGAINST THIS "SUTURE" BIMBO, OR NOT?
HEY, TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I DON'T WANNA MAKE A CASE AGAINST HER.
I LOVE HER.
SHE'S THE WIFE I NEVER HAD AND THE DAUGHTER I NEVER LOVED. SHE WHEELED IN THE "ROSE" KILLER IN A DUMPSTER, FER CHRISSAKE. SAVED THE WOMAN WHO WOULD'VE BEEN HIS NINTH SLICE AND DICE. THIS LADY IS A GODDAMN CIVIL SERVANT.
YOU OUGHTA QUIT AND GIVE HER YOUR JOB!
WHY'D SHE GIVE HERSELF UP? I DON'T GET IT.
AND WHY HERE?

KICK HER LOOSE.
WHAT?
THE ROSS WOMAN DIDN'T ACTUALLY WITNESS EUDEN'S MURDER. WE GOT NO PRINTS AND NO EVIDENCE. SHE HASN'T SAID A WORD, AND IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE'S PLANNING TO CONFESS. KICK HER.
AS IF SHE'S HEARD WEAVER'S WORDS THROUGH THE TWO-WAY GLASS, SUTURE TURNS AND FACES HER SCARRED REFLECTION.
I DID IT. I DID THEM ALL.
AND THERE'LL BE MORE. THEY KNOW WHO THEY ARE. THEY KNOW WHAT THEY'VE DONE. THEY'VE LEFT A SAVAGE WAKE OF VICTIMS THAT'S ABOUT TO WASH BACK OVER THEM LIKE A TIDAL WAVE.
JESUS...
THE COP SEES IT IN HER EYES. SOMETHING FROST-COLD AND DEEPLY TERRIFYING. THAT SENSE OF MERCILESS RECKONING.
REMEMBER: A STITCH IN TIME--
--SAVES NINE.

HALLIDAY, DEKE, AND MICHELLI SAUNTER INTO THE TWO-NINE. NO HINT THAT THEY JUST GUNNED DOWN TWO HUMAN BEINGS. THEIR MOOD IS ACTUALLY UPBEAT.
YO, HALLIDAY. THAT KILLER, "SUTURE", WALKED IN, GAVE HERSELF UP LAST NIGHT.
OH, YEAH. WHAT'S SHE LOOK LIKE? NICE PIECE?
SHE'S A PLASTIC SURGEON'S WET DREAM.
SO BUY HER A PAPER BAG. HAHA!
THE MEDIA CREWS JOCKEY FOR POSITION. A RABID PACK.
HEY, YOU GUYS KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT SUTURE?
WANNA GET ON NATIONAL TV? HOW ABOUT A STATEMENT?
SETTLE DOWN OR I GET THE HOSE.
PRESS. BUNCHA SCUMBAGS.
LIKE A PYTHON, SUTURE SLOWLY UNCOILS. SENSES HER TARGETS ARE NEAR. THE TIME OF WAITING IS OVER.
YES...
HEY LADY, SIT YOUR ASS BACK DOWN. HEAR ME?!
THE COP GIVES GROUND. BOTTOM LINE, HE DOESN'T FEEL SAFE.
SUTURE LOWERS HER HANDS. HER RESEWN JOINTS AND BONES ARE EASY TO MANIPULATE.
THE CUFFS SLIDE OFF WITHOUT A HITCH.
CLATTER ON THE COLD LINOLEUM.
WORRY.

YOU GOT TILL THE COUNT OF THREE TO PUT YOUR SEWED-UP BUTT BACK IN THAT CHAIR! GOT IT?!
ONE--
HE DOESN'T GET TO TWO. THE OBSERVATION ROOM BECOMES CHAOS. EVERYONE DIVES FOR COVER, CHASED BY GLASS SPLINTERS AND STRUCK DOWN BY THE COP'S FLYING BODY.
FORCES ARE MASSING LIKE A STORM. EVERY ONE FEELS IT AND SENSES THE TREMBLE OF THEIR MARROW
SPARKS HANGS ON TO CONSCIOUSNESS. HE'S AN OFFICER OF THE LAW AND KNOWS HIS DUTY. A PRISONER'S ABOUT TO ESCAPE. I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.
DON'T.
BUT RAY SPARKS IS ALSO NO FOOL.

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

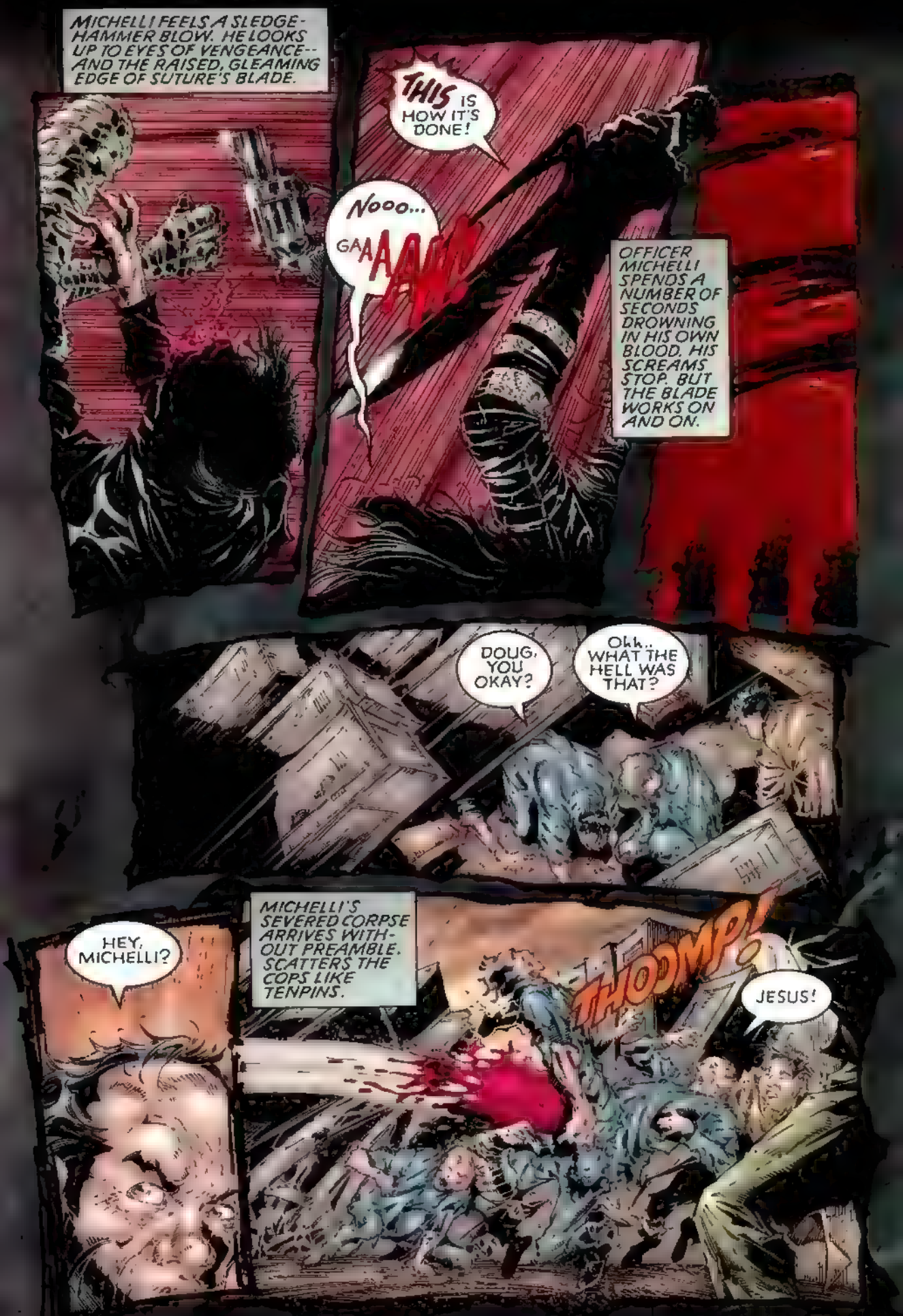
SAM BURKE AND TWITCH WILLIAMS, WOUNDED, BLEEDING, ANGRY, SLAM THROUGH INTO THE TWO-NINE.
HALLIDAY, YOU WORTHLESS PUKE! WHERE *ARE* YOU?!
YO, DONUTHOLE, YOU CAIN'T COME IN HERE. GOT ORDERS TO *CUFF* YOUR ASSES IF YOU SO MUCH AS--
CRAM IT.
AT THAT MOMENT, AN ALARM SOUNDS. BOTH SAM AND TWITCH REALIZE ITS MEANING: A PRISONER HAS ESCAPED CUSTODY AND IS LOOSE IN THE PRECINCT BUILDING.
BUT THAT ISN'T THEIR CONCERN. TWO MEN ARE DEAD AND THREE DIRTY COPS ARE GOING TO FIND JUDGMENT.
I KILL 'EM NOW AND IT'S STILL SELF-DEFENSE, RIGHT?
THEY POPPED OFF AT US, DAMMIT! WITH *SHOTGUNS*, TWITCH! YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I *HATE* SHOTGUNS!
PERHAPS JUSTIFIABLE HOMOCIDE AFTER THE FACT IS NOT TOO FAR OUTSIDE THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY.
THE POLICE HAVE NO CHANCE. THE MEDIA SMELLS BLOOD. THEY SWELL FORWARD EN MASSE.
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
HUNDRED GRAND TO THE FIRST COP WHO CAN GET US AN INTERVIEW!
IS IT SUTURE?
SHE GET AWAY?
TWO HUNDRED!
GET THE HELL BACK OVER THERE!
SAM AND TWITCH MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE PATROL OFFICERS' SQUAD AREA... GUNS, LOCKED AND LOADED.

THE KLAXONS CONTINUE, BUT ONE PARTICULAR OFFICER COULDN'T CARE LESS: BILL NUBANA, THE EVIDENCE ROOM SHIFT SUPERVISOR.
NUBANA CONSIDERS HIMSELF A GOD IN HIS WORLD. EVERYONE HAS TO COME TO HIM WHEN THEY NEED SOMETHING TO MAKE OR BREAK THEIR CASE.
THAT WAY! MOVE IT!
NUBANA DOESN'T NOTICE THE SHADOWY NIGHTMARE THAT FLOWS SOUNDLESSLY FROM A VENTILATION SHAFT...
...UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE.
WHAT THE F--
SHE ALLOWS NOTHING TO STAND IN HER WAY. THAT WHICH SHE SEEKS IS CLOSE ENOUGH TO SMELL, TO TOUCH, TO REND LIMB FROM LIMB.
MEMORIES DRIVE HER LIKE A COACHMAN'S WHIP. NOT JUST HER OWN, BUT THE KEENING WHINE OF A THOUSAND OTHERS.
VICTIMS CRY OUT FROM SHALLOW GRAVES, LANDFILLS AND GARBAGE BAGS WEIGHED DOWN WITH CINDERBLOCKS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE EAST RIVER...
...AN UNENDING COMMUNAL WAIL THAT RIPPLES ALONG HER RECONSTRUCTED FLESH.
IN THEIR COLLECTIVE DARKNESS-- THEY WANT THEIR PEACE.

THE INSTRUMENT. SHE OFTEN WONDERS IF IT'S TOO CIVILIZED AN EDGE.
K-KRUM
SHE CAN SMELL THE FEAR AND RAGE. POLICE, SO SENSITIVE OF EGO, CAN EASILY FEEL VIOLATED.
SWAT OFFERS NO WARNING AN ESCAPED PRISONER MUST BE DEALT WITH HARSHLY.
SHE GLIDES AS THE POLICE THROW THEIR BULLETS AND CURSES.
EVEN AS NEW DEATH THREATENS.
THE MISSION WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED OF THAT SUTURE HAS NO DOUBT.
NEWS CREWS AND VIDEO-GRAPHERS SPRINT ALONG-SIDE SWAT OFFICERS CARRYING HK MODIFIES
GIVE US ONE MINUTE WITH HER A HALF MILLION, ALRIGHT?!
STAY THE HELL BACK!
OKAY, OKAY. THIRTY SECONDS, COME ON!

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

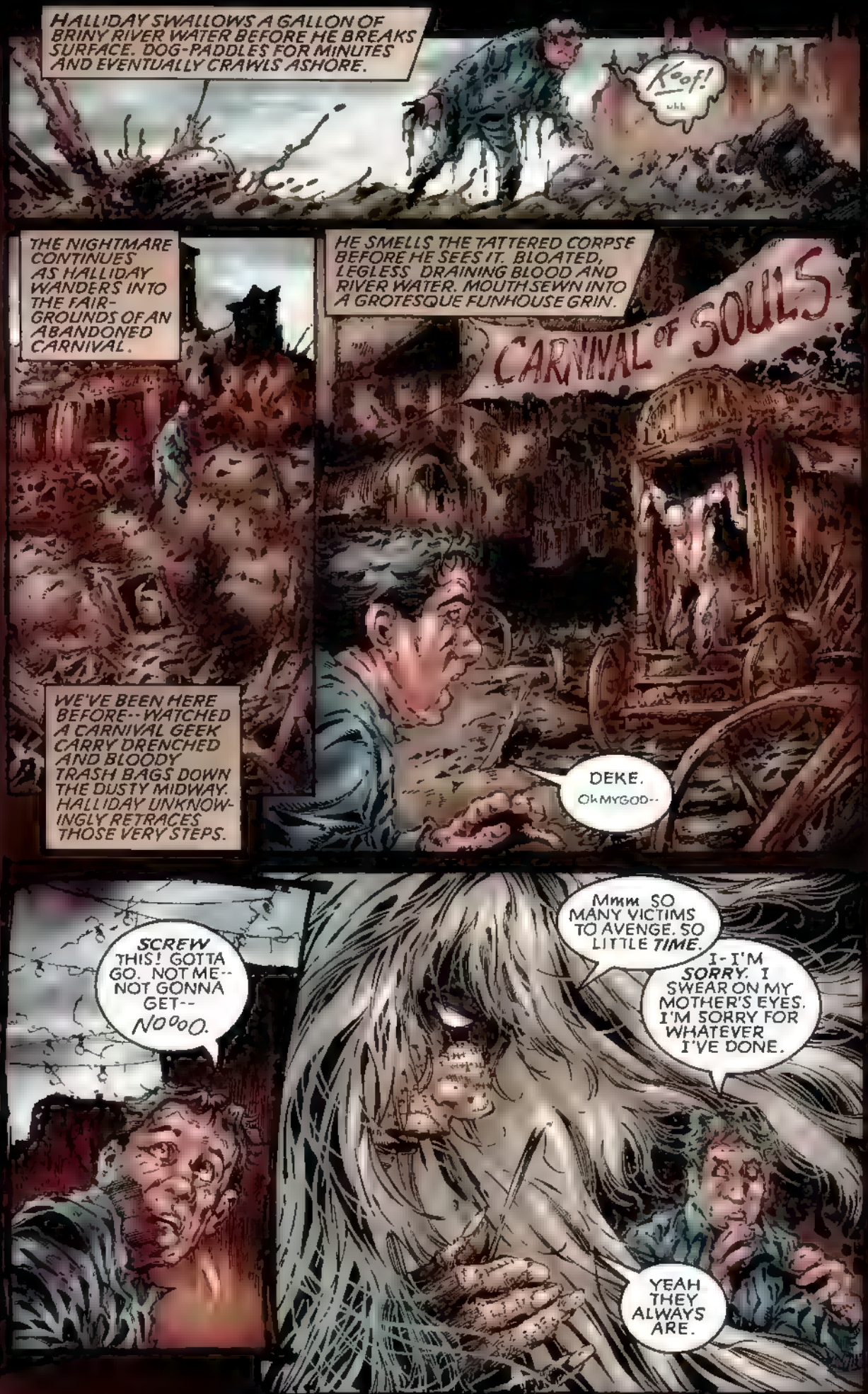
WELL, WELL. LOOK AT THIS. TWITCH. THE BOYS IN BLUE SERVE AND PROTECT, ISN'T THAT THEIR CATCHY LITTLE SLOGAN?
SUCH IS THE RUMOR, SIR.
SO WHY DO I SUDDENLY FEEL LIKE BARFING 'THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER'?
I KNOW. IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS ROTTEN, MAGGOT CRUSTED TURD THAT JUST REFUSES TO FLUSH. MY TURN FOR A LITTLE TARGET PRACTICE, ASSFACE, AND BELIEVE ME, I AIN'T GONNA MISS AT THIS RANGE.
WHAT THE HELL'S YOUR PROBLEM, BURKE? YOU DRUNK AGAIN? I HEARD YOU USED TO HAVE A LITTLE PROBLEM--
SHUT YOUR PUKEHOLE, DOUGIE, BEFORE I MAKE YOU A NEW ONE
OTHER UNIFORM COPS GIVE GROUND. NO ONE SEES MICHELLI MOVE AROUND THE LOCKERS WITH HIS SERVICE .44 SMITH.
WE'RE GONNA TAKE A LITTLE WALK UPSTAIRS. TALK ABOUT SOME BODIES YOU DONATED TO THE MORGUE, YOU WORTHLESS SNOT-ROCKET.
I DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT YOU'RE TALKIN' ABOUT.
AND NO ONE WILL QUESTION HIS MOTIVES WHEN HE OPENS FIRE. THIS WILL DEFINITELY BE A RIGHTEOUS SHOOT.
THE LOCKERS FOLD OVER LIKE DOMINOES. EVERYONE SPRAWLS AS A WRAITH MOVES AMONG THE FALLEN.


MICHELLI FEELS A SLEDGE-HAMMER BLOW. HE LOOKS UP TO EYES OF VENGEANCE--AND THE RAISED, GLEAMING EDGE OF SUTURE'S BLADE.
THIS IS HOW IT'S DONE!
Nooo...
GAAAAH!
OFFICER MICHELLI SPENDS A NUMBER OF SECONDS DROWNING IN HIS OWN BLOOD. HIS SCREAMS STOP. BUT THE BLADE WORKS ON AND ON.
DOUG, YOU OKAY?
Ohh.. WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
HEY, MICHELLI?
MICHELLI'S SEVERED CORPSE ARRIVES WITHOUT PREAMBLE. SCATTERS THE COPS LIKE TENPINS.
THOOMP!
JESUS!

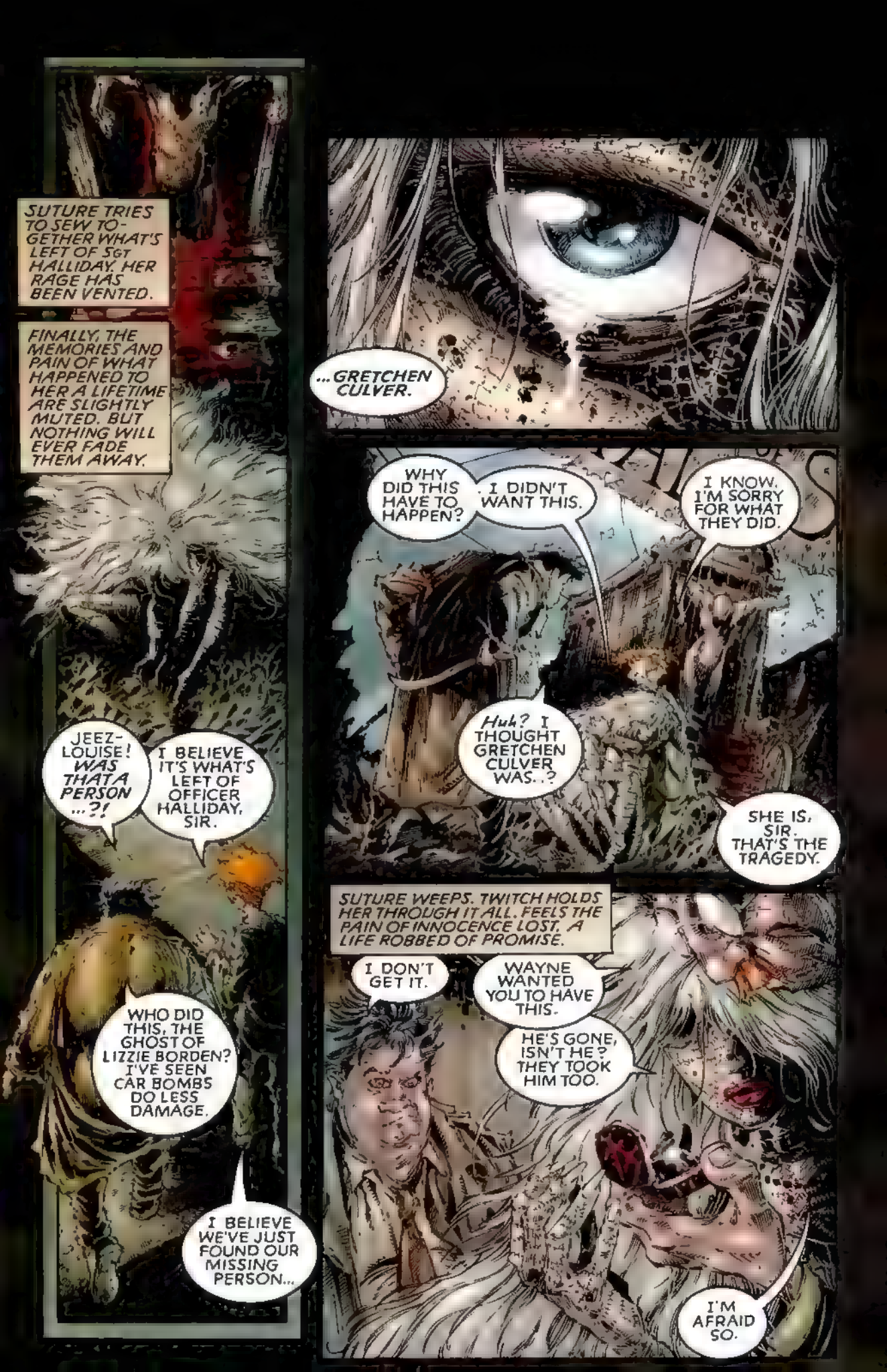
THE SIGHT OF THEIR SLASHED COMRADE SENDS THE TERRIFIED COPS INTO A FRENZY. GUNS ARE DRAWN. VOICES RISE. SHOUTS OF WARNING ARE FOLLOWED BY SPORADIC WILD SHOTS
CHAOS.
I SEE HER! LEFT SIDE!
NO! WATCH IT, THAT'S DAVE AND PETE!
PANIC.
OFFICERS PETER TISCH AND DAVID BREMER JOIN THE MOUNTING CASUALTY LIST.
SUTURE LEAPS OVER THE SEA OF POLICE. SEVERS HANDS ONE AFTER ANOTHER. SHE KNOWS ANY ONE OF THEM COULD DO WHAT HALLIDAY AND THE OTHERS DID. SOME ALREADY HAVE.
SUTURE SEES IT IN THE EYES OF THE GUILTY. IT BURNS LIKE A BEACON OF DAMNATION. FOR THEM-- NO MERCY.
STILL LIKE MY SQUEEZE-BOX, OFFICER?
MOTHER MARY--!

SEE, DEKE, NO PROBLEM. JUST GOTTA TREAT WOMEN THE WAY THEY NEED TO BE TREATED. NAKED OR DEAD DON'T MATTER. LONG AS THEY END UP FLAT ON THEIR BACKS.
SQUEEZE THIS, YOU BITCH!
GODAMIGHTY, DOUG!
SUCH OPINIONS CAN BE FATAL.
WHERE'S HALLIDAY?
RUNNING, SIR.
SUTURE TAKES THE HITS CHEST HIGH. TOPPLES BACKWARD OVER THE SCATTERED LOCKERS.
CAN'T BE--! SHE TOOK FOUR FRIGGING HOLLOW-POINTS!
FAIR WARNING'S BEEN GIVEN. NOW IT'S TIME FOR THE SAINTS TO PLAY.
HALLIDAY AND DEKE KNOW THEY NEED DISTANCE, AND THINK TIME. THE PARKED CRUISER'S KEYS ARE ON THE DASH.
JUST WHAT THEY NEED

SKREEEE
WATCH IT, DOUG.
HALLIDAY DRIVES LIKE A MAN POSSESSED.
SHUDDUP! OH MAN, THIS IS WRONG-- ALL WRONG. OKAY. WE GO TO BROOKLYN. I KNOW PEOPLE THERE. FAVORS THEY OWE ME--
SUTURE'S FACE DROPS INTO VIEW LIKE SOME NIGHTMARE PHANTOM.
SHOOT HER, FOR CHRISSAKE!
CAN'T FIND MY PIECE, MAN-- SHAKE HER OFF!
WATCH IT!
kreesh!
SUTURE YANKS THE CRUISER HARD RIGHT--
--INTO THE EAST RIVER, WHERE SHE DRIFTED AS HUNDREDS OF SEVERED CHUNKS FOR THE BETTER PART OF A WEEK.
FROM THE ROAD, THE POLICE CRUISER QUICKLY BECOMES A SINKING DOT, GONE IN MOMENTS


HALLIDAY SWALLOWS A GALLON OF BRINY RIVER WATER BEFORE HE BREAKS SURFACE. DOG-PADDLES FOR MINUTES AND EVENTUALLY CRAWLS ASHORE.
Koof!
uhh
THE NIGHTMARE CONTINUES AS HALLIDAY WANDERS INTO THE FAIR-GROUNDS OF AN ABANDONED CARNIVAL.
HE SMELLS THE TATTERED CORPSE BEFORE HE SEES IT. BLOATED, LEGLESS DRAINING BLOOD AND RIVER WATER. MOUTH SEWN INTO A GROTESQUE FUNHOUSE GRIN.
CARNIVAL OF SOULS
WE'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE--WATCHED A CARNIVAL GEEK CARRY DRENCHED AND BLOODY TRASH BAGS DOWN THE DUSTY MIDWAY. HALLIDAY UNKNOWINGLY RETRACES THOSE VERY STEPS.
DEKE.
OhMYGOD--
SCREW THIS! GOTTA GO. NOT ME--NOT GONNA GET--
NOOOO.
Mmm SO MANY VICTIMS TO AVENGE. SO LITTLE TIME.
I-I'M SORRY. I SWEAR ON MY MOTHER'S EYES. I'M SORRY FOR WHATEVER I'VE DONE.
YEAH THEY ALWAYS ARE.

FORCES DRAW SAM AND TWITCH INTO THE CARNIVAL'S HAUNTLANDS. ECHOES OF ANGUISH AND PAIN LITTER THE DESOLATE WAGONS AND COLLAPSED TENTS.
NICE DIGS-- IF YOU'RE A FUN-HOUSE PSYCHO.
THE OLD WOMAN OFFERS A DARK GUFFAW. A DOUR SOUL-SMIRK OF SATISFACTION.
TOO LATE TO STOP WHAT MUST BE. ALL BEEN TOO LONG COMING FOR SO MANY.
JEEZ, SHE'S NO SPRING CHICKEN.
MA'AM, WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON?
THE SAINTS ARE SERVING THEIR PURPOSE. THEY'RE IN HER NOW. THEY'LL BE IN HER FOR AS LONG AS IT SUITS THEIR HUMOR.
THE SAINTS? SHE TALKIN' FOOT-BALL?
I DON'T BELIEVE SO, SIR SHE S OBVIOUSLY SANTERIAN.
SANTER-WHO?
THEN, ALL AT ONCE, SCREAMS--- LIKE SOMETHING FROM DOOM'S DARK DEPTHS.
CHRIST-- YOU HEAR THAT?
FRANKLY, SIR, I WISH I HADN'T.
MORE SCREAMS. WORSE SCREAMS.


SUTURE TRIES TO SEW TOGETHER WHAT'S LEFT OF SGT HALLIDAY. HER RAGE HAS BEEN VENTED.
FINALLY, THE MEMORIES AND PAIN OF WHAT HAPPENED TO HER A LIFETIME ARE SLIGHTLY MUTED. BUT NOTHING WILL EVER FADE THEM AWAY.
JEEZ-LOUISE! WAS THAT A PERSON ...?!
I BELIEVE IT'S WHAT'S LEFT OF OFFICER HALLIDAY, SIR.
WHO DID THIS, THE GHOST OF LIZZIE BORDEN? I'VE SEEN CAR BOMBS DO LESS DAMAGE.
I BELIEVE WE'VE JUST FOUND OUR MISSING PERSON...
...GRETCHEN CULVER.
WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN?
I DIDN'T WANT THIS.
I KNOW. I'M SORRY FOR WHAT THEY DID.
Huh? I THOUGHT GRETCHEN CULVER WAS..?
SHE IS, SIR. THAT'S THE TRAGEDY.
SUTURE WEEPS. TWITCH HOLDS HER THROUGH IT ALL. FEELS THE PAIN OF INNOCENCE LOST, A LIFE ROBBED OF PROMISE.
I DON'T GET IT.
WAYNE WANTED YOU TO HAVE THIS.
HE'S GONE, ISN'T HE? THEY TOOK HIM TOO.
I'M AFRAID SO.

FOR BETTER, FOR WORSE. FOR RICHER FOR POORER.
IN SICKNESS, AND IN HEALTH. FROM THIS DAY FORWARD.
'TIL DEATH US DO PART.
NO MORE VICTIMS. AS GOD IS MY WITNESS.
ALRIGHT, THAT'S IT! WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON, TWITCH?
IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW, SIR. IT'S ALREADY HAPPENED.
BY THE TIME EDLAND, BRAYDE, AND SPARKS FIND THE SCENE OF CARNAGE, THE PHANTOM KNOWN AS SUTURE IS LONG GONE. REPORTS WILL BE WRITTEN. LIES WILL BE TOLD. ASSES WILL BE COVERED.
FOR I.A.D. DIRECTOR EVAN KAINE, THE BACK ALLEY SECRETS OF THE N.Y.P.D. REMAIN JUST THAT.
OFFICERS HALLIDAY, MICHELLI, DEKE, AND OSBORNE WILL BE PAINTED AS TRAGIC VICTIMS OF A RUTHLESS SERIAL KILLER.
... LOST BENEATH THE HYPE OF THE LATEST CELEBRITY OR POLITICAL SCANDAL.
THEIR FATES, ALONG WITH WAYNE TANNANGER'S AND GRETCHEN CULVER'S, WILL BE BURIED IN THE BACK PAGES OF THE NEWSPAPERS...

ANOTHER DAY. THE GRIND. BILLS AWAIT PAYMENT. THREATS COME FROM CREDITORS. LIFE FROM HAND TO MOUTH CONTINUES.
BUT FOR TWITCH WILLIAMS THERE HAS COME A SUBTLE CHANGE. A FEELING THAT WITHIN THE COMPOST HEAP OF DREARY CASES MAY BE THAT ONE THAT ANSWERS THE COLD, NAGGING QUESTIONS FOR AN INNOCENT PERSON, A SUFFERING FAMILY
GRETCHEN CULVER
CASE CLOSED
MAYBE IT JUST ALLOWS A MOMENT'S PEACE TO A RESTLESS SPIRIT.
WHATEVER THE REASONS, OR THE OUTCOME, TWITCH FEELS A RENEWED COMMITTMENT TO HIS JOB AS A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR.
THE VICTIMS NEED SOMEONE TO BE THEIR VOICE. SOMEONE WHO KNOWS AND UNDERSTANDS THEIR PAIN.
BECAUSE AGONY SURVIVES
AND ITS SCREAMS MUST NOT GO UNANSWERED.

IMAGE INFO

blah, blah, blah 54

Howdy First things first another photo Al Simmons was lucky enough last month to be at a convention with Mr and Mrs Hockey otherwise known as Gordie Howe Gordie up until two years ago used to hold the record for most goals lifetime in the NHL at 801 The invincible Wayne Gretzky surpassed him and will keep adding to that tally for a few more years

But, lets talk about Gordie He scored the 801 goals back when there was a lot fewer teams only eight at one point No lousy expansion teams to ring up 4 or 5 goals a night on Nope Plus, Gordie was a physical player They used to call him Mr E bows, because he led every check elbows first And he would fight Yup Reminds me of a story I saw Gordie play in Vancouver during his last year in the league, (he played for the Hartford Whalers) and Harold Snepts a Vancouver defenseman checked Gordie hard into the boards Now remember Gordie was in his late 40 s at the time With Gordie on his knees on the ice Harold skates back to give him a hand up Gordie not only does not accept his offer but instead uses his stick to bring Harold to his knees and point out to him who was still the boss God bless you Gordie for all the fun you brought us fans I've met you three or four times and every time you've been very nice gave me an autograph or two and have always had a story to tell Good luck with the Syracuse Crunch Teach these young punks a thing or two!!

On to Spawn I went into L A for more movie related meetings This time around we discussed bands for the upcoming soundtrack Many many bands were brought up Some were metal others electronica In the end our list was about 30 names long For the next step we're off to pitch the list and the movie to four or five record companies Epic Virgin interscope TVT etc We'll update as it progresses

I'm writing this at the MGM hotel and casino in Las Vegas Why? I'm here for the ASI convention This is the show where all the giants in the coin-op video game (arcade) biz debut their new games Names like Namco Atari Sega etc I'm here to check out Capcom's THREE It's also known by its other name Street Fighter Three The chairman of the company Yoshiki Okomoto and I went head to head for five or six matches He let me win a couple nice guy Mr Okomoto-San is a great guy and we have scheduled a rematch in Tokyo next week during the Tokyo Toy Fair We might have a nice little deal cooking between the two of us

Write this day down on your calendar Friday May 16th midnight is the debut of the animated Spawn show on HBO!!! Yes, that's midnight on both coasts (11pm MST) We all here are very excited to finally get to see Spawn live on the tele being pumped into over 20 million households For those of you without HBO get with ya?! I guarantee you for 10 bucks a month it's well worth it What are you going to do wait four months until the video comes out? You can't wait that long

OK gotta go Have fun this month will update you on a lot of movie vid game etc stuff next month Take Care

terry fitzgerald

CURSE WORDS™

CURSE WORDS P.O. Box 27228 Tempe AZ 85285-7228
HTTP://WWW.SPAWN.COM

Thanks for all of the birthday cards you sent in. Sometimes I get so busy I don't realize another year has gone by. HBO is set to air the first episode of the Spawn animation on May 16th at midnight in most areas. Watch for it! Also, don't forget to check out our new and updated web site!

Dear Mr. McElroy

Just finished reading Curse of the Spawn #5. I'm completely amazed of your abilities. You're a great writer. (I'm sure you're already aware of that.) This is the most stomach turning story I've ever read in the comic book field. I'm surprised of the sudden change and I'm completely for it. Out of the four issue story arc in Curse of the Spawn, I've enjoyed this one the most. I don't normally enjoy reading about dark, grizzly murder stories, but I have enjoyed this one. This story reminds me of a well known movie. I'm sure you've seen it. Silence of the Lambs. That was a great movie.

What have you written in the past so that I may enjoy reading more of your great stories? I'm sure the movie is gonna be great knowing that you wrote it and I can't wait to see it. Thank you for being a part of the "Spawn" team!

Alan: Nothing. I had a short story published in a short story magazine a long time ago and you'd never find it. I do enjoy writing and it is my hope that someday I will have a novel published. Until then, you'll just have to keep reading Curse of the Spawn.

Dear Mr. Turner

What can I say? I love your art. You're awesome. I'm not saying this out of ignorance. I myself am an aspiring artist (and writer). I love your story telling. You're like 'Norman Rockwell'. Each panel, each close up and each angle tells a story that's understandable to the reader. I know each and every comic book artist has to be able to tell a visual story with clarity. But the difference between you (and a lot of other artists of your caliber too) and most common comic book artists are your extreme shots, your unique style. You make every thing look so rough, dark and realistic. But it's still a cartoon which makes this story in a sense "acceptable to the censors" or at least as far as I know. I'm not trying to put you down. My favorite pages in the book are the rape sequences with the dirty cops. I don't know why, maybe it's because it's something I wouldn't expect to see in a Spawn comic (or would I?). Great story Telling.

Dwayne: Thanks. It was an honor being compared to Norman Rockwell. I only wish I was half as well known as he was.

Dear Mr. Miki.

Without you none of the art in this book would've been possible. I've tried inking my own stuff and I just can't seem to get the knack of inking with a crow quill. That's why I have a deep respect for inkers, especially those who use brushes (Bernie Wrightson). It must be real tedious having to ink all of Turner's details. You're probably always stressed of deadlines due to the detailed pencils. Maybe I'm wrong. Any way your inks are Kick Ass.

Danny: Thanks for recognizing the inks as an integral part of the art in comics. Yes, it is tedious having to ink all of Dwayne's details and yes there is a certain amount of stress associated with inking as the deadlines get near. Thanks for the compliments!

Dear Mr. Broeker and Mr. Nicholas

I met you (Mr. Broeker) at a convention in Arizona where 'Chaos' was pluggin' their stuff. You're a nice person to talk to. I had long hair, you signed my Curse of the Spawn. What's the point? I'm sure you meet a lot of long-haired fan boys at conventions. Any ways, you're a very skilled colorist. You and Mark make a great team as far as I can see. I like how you guys make the story dark and moody to let the reader know this story isn't something to be taken lightly. I like the added texture on various surfaces in the book.

Todd: I remember meeting you and appreciate your positive feedback on the colors. It makes all those long hours more worthwhile. We're really trying to make this book the best possible by complementing Dwayne and Danny's artwork while keeping the mood of Alan's story telling.

Dear Mr. Orzechowski

Like always, you do a good job. I've dabbled in hand lettering and for me it's a pain in the ass. I have a few questions. On some pages you have white letters on a black background. Do you use white ink or is the black reversed out on the computer? Do you use the computer solely for paste ups or do you do that by hand?

You're an awesome letterer, my hat's off to you.

Tom: Thanks for writing. Todd keeps me pretty well tied up getting the books out on schedule but your letter caught up to me between issues.

Lettering? A pain?! Well you aren't the first one to say so. The pay is pretty good, probably because a lot of people think it's a pain and would rather not have to do it. Myself, I find it's rhythmic, and it gives me a chance to cover up the backgrounds that the penciller spent so much time working out. Heh heh.

Ideally, I'd be lettering the Spawn books directly on the artwork, but schedules are just too tight anymore. It's been at least a year since I've directly lettered more than a few pages per issue of Spawn, and I've never touched Curse. The routine is now for the scripting (and next-issue plotting) to be done at the same time as the inking. Lettering is then done on a good grade of vellum, working over full-size xerox copies of the inked art, while Todd Broeker works out the colors. I scan each lettered page and modem it to his office, where he drops the balloons into the color work digitally. There's no physical cutting and pasting. This system allows pairs of us to handle our jobs at the same time and is surprisingly efficient... until two days before deadline, when it always breaks down. The colorists would love it if I could letter on the boards, and so would the inkers, but when time is tight it's easier to manage things this way. The white-on-black lettering is, as you guessed, reversed by computer.

Occasionally, I do some of the balloons and captions with fonts I've put together, but they're a little stiff and don't really save any time... except on books with really heavy scripts.

We'll have to see if Sam and Twitch ever get a regular series. I think Todd would rather limit them to occasional miniseries and one-shot situations when they're not appearing in the main Spawn book. He's given the go-ahead to a plot proposal by me and my partner, and I believe it'll be released as a 64-page volume, possibly early next year, but it's too early to say.

Dear Todd McFarlane.

You're like the "Beatles" of comic books. Always producing quality, standing on there never losing the spotlight and will always be remembered. Thanks for being different.

PS. Make a Sam & Twitch comic book series or at least a mini-series.

A Reader for Life
Eric Lassen
Gilbert, AZ

We just did a miniseries with Sam & Twitch in Curse of the Spawn issues 5 through 8. It's a story line that doesn't contain Spawn but is just about them being good detectives. I see you've already started the series and this issue (Curse #8) is the last in that story arc. I hope you enjoyed it. Maybe down the road we'll do another series with them if the story lines call for it.

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter comes to you as a result of a growing problem in the comic book industry.

I had to write this after I bought Curse of the Spawn #4. I would like Turner, Miki, Broeker and Young to take a step back and really look at the cover. Don't you four guys think your stylized signatures/tags are a bit much. I mean look at it - it's a picture of a hand. We all know you all work on the book. We can actually find that out by turning the page. At least hide or incorporate your signatures into the drawing a la A. Durer - the way you do it is just silly looking.

If you are that vain, why don't you each put a small photograph of yourself on the cover next to your signatures - you are almost there.

Sincerely
Robert Youngberg
New York, NY

I agree with you to some extent and I've had conversations with everyone involved. I hope we have come to a happy medium because everyone is entitled to put their name on their work. We refine things as we go along in the creative process so keep watching and maybe you can tell us if we're headed in the right direction.

Dear Curse Words

Before starting, I would like to tell you that it is the first time, ever in my life, that I write to a comic book writing and creating team. I have reading and collecting comics for quite some time now and I must say that you people do a terrific job. I have been a huge Spawn fan from the beginning and I am still fascinated by the complexities and wit of your stories. When you decided to publish Curse of the Spawn, I was very enthusiastic about the idea of new story lines and characters. The first four issues were brilliant and I enjoyed them with pass on and pleasure. Your apocalyptic view of the future was somewhat disturbing and I loved it!

However I am not writing to you only to tell you that I think your book is one of the best published in the entire comic book industry. I am concerned with issue number 5 and the story you started to tell in it. Don't get me wrong, I thought it was intelligent and fascinating, but don't you think you should have a "suggested for mature readers" or and "adult only" warning on the book? Allow me to explain. If this specific story was made into a movie I personally think it would be rated as a restricted film. You put very explicit graphic violence in there that may not be suited for younger readers. I do not want to think that I am some kind of purist who wishes to censor every thing he reads. Nevertheless, I would like you to consider putting a warning on the issue which you think are treating more serious and adult related subjects. As a future teacher I felt that I had to write you this letter to inform you about how some of us feel. I am 21 years old and still like to read comic books and like I said I really enjoy your work but sometimes you seem to be playing near the "standard comics-adult comics" line. I think you should just go forward and tell us: "Hey we wanted to create an adult story around the Spawn mythology and we did it! Sorry kids." I realize that with a strategy like this you could lose some sales. However, if young kids really want the book they will buy it but at least you will have warned them.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely
Benoit Laret
Montreal, Quebec

I appreciate your concern, Benoit. We continue to wrestle with those kinds of stories and in the future we will deal with them differently. We will be warning the retailers and leave it to them to rack the books in an appropriate place. This book won't always be that way, however. The Angela story arc will be accessible to everyone. We will probably only produce cutting edge comic books about one time per year.

Dear Curse Words

I've read Curse of the Spawn from the first issue and it's probably the best writing I ever seen and the art is kickin'. Dwayne Turner and Alan McElroy are the best team ever in comics. I've just got a few questions concerning the series. In issue #6 when Mawbley enters the movie theater and the movie is already going - is that a scene we're going to see in the Spawn movie?

Is there going to be sound track to the Spawn movie? If so who's on it?

The Spawn cartoon on HBO will those ever be put on tape and sold to those people who can't afford HBO?

When are we gonna see some previews for the Spawn movie cause I haven't seen any yet.

Will there be any stories in Curse of the Spawn that revolve around Al Simmons?

In Curse of the Spawn #1 Llanso is another Spawn. What happened to Al Simmons. Was he redeemed?

So see ya later and keep putting out quality books. Oh yeah, have Al meet Wanda soon. I wanna see what's gonna happen. Since Terry knows about Al, I wanna see him talk his way outta this one.

Sincerely,
Brik Thomas

I agree with you that Dwayne and Alan are doing a fantastic job and the other members of the team are kickin' some butt, too.

As for your questions: Yes, that is a scene out of the Spawn movie in Curse #6. I wasn't sure if the readers would pick up on that but obviously some did.

Yes, there will be a sound track to the movie. At this time we are looking at seventeen different bands with the Epic label. We'll let you know when we sign them and print the names right here in the comic book.

Yes, the HBO Spawn animated series will be sold on video tape. There will be two versions. One will have an "R" rating and the other will be edited to a "PG-13" rating. I've seen both of them and I think that both of them look good.

The preview or "trailer" as we call them, for the Spawn movie will probably be shown in theaters starting around Memorial Day weekend. Keep an eye out for them and write and tell me what you think.

There probably will not be any stories in Curse of the Spawn that revolve around Al Simmons. If we do write a story line about him, it will most likely be about Al before he died.

The Daniel Llanso Spawn and the Al Simmons Spawn are two different Spawns who will probably never meet or know each other. They are two different story lines. As for your question about Al being redeemed, that is the big question that can take a life time to answer.

SPAWN
THE MOVIE

Behind the Scenes

Beginning this month and continuing through the movie's release this August, I want to share with you some of my "behind the scenes" experiences working on the Spawn movie.

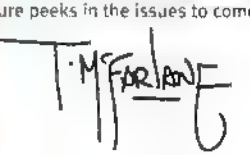
This process began back in early 1993 when Mark Dippe, a leading digital visual effects supervisor at ILM (Industrial Light and Magic), Clint Goldman, a producer at ILM, and Steve "Spaz" Williams, a special effects genius about to change computer animation forever, sat at my dining room table and shared their visions to bring Spawn to the big screen. Their passion and dedication to this project was evident from the beginning, and when a deal was finally signed with New Line Cinema, it was on the condition that this team was attached to the movie.

A writer, Alan McElroy, was chosen, a script was written, and the waiting game began. Many changes occurred during that time including Ted Turner's acquisition of New Line Cinema transforming that studio from a producer of small pictures to one releasing such hits as "Seven" and "The Mask". McFarlane Toys was formed, the slow process of creating the Spawn animated series at HBO had begun, and the waiting game continued.

Enhancing the scope and budget of the film ensued, and New Line realized that the success of this film would definitely be affected by the timing of its release. Official word came down from New Line in April of 1996 when Spawn the movie was "green lit", a budget was set which was nearly triple its original budget back when the deal was closed, and the casting process began.

Aiming for a summer 1997 window, everyone involved on the project immediately sprang into motion. Knowing that Spawn the movie would contain ground breaking special effects, the likes of which have never been seen before, the picture had to wrap by late Fall. Now as we sit at the beginning of May, ILM, Banned from the Ranch, Santa Barbara Studios, Western Images and Imaginary Forces among others are hard at work on these special effects, the movie is on budget, and on schedule.

I hope you enjoy this glimpse at Spawn the movie, and future peeks in the issues to come.



From top: 1) Martin Sheen as Jason Wynn, 2) Director Mark Dippe with John Leguizamo as The Clown, 3) Michael Jai White as Al Simmons, 4) and as Spawn, 5) Jason Wynn with Jessica Priest (played by Melinda Clarke), 6) Spawn uses his powers to scale a building.

NEW LINE CINEMA

TODD MCFARLANE'S

Spawn®

HBO Animation

May is Spawn Month

Todd McFarlane's Spawn will premiere on HBO on Friday, May 16th with the first of six consecutive half-hour episodes. Each episode will air Fridays at midnight ET/PT.

For those of you who live in the LA area, take a drive up to Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood. Right by the House of Blues on Sunset facing west HBO has painted an entire side of a building announcing the premiere of Spawn on HBO. A photo of that tall wall accompanies this column but obviously seeing it in its actual size is quite impressive.

As we speak final tweaks to each episode are being made. Todd McFarlane recently made a trip to Los Angeles to record the opening segments for each episode. Much like Rod Serling did with the Twilight Zone, Todd will introduce each episode and provide thought provoking questions for viewers to contemplate as the series unfolds.

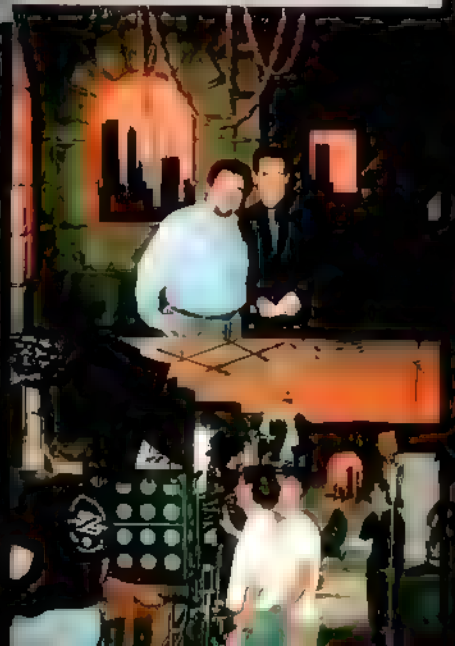
A lot of letters to this column have asked about merchandise related to the animated series. In June, through Diamond Distributors, and thus your local comic book store, numerous items relating to the series will be available including a blue denim jacket with a shot of Spawn from the series embroidered on the back, denim shirts, a black baseball cap with the Spawn animated series logo, thermal long-sleeved shirts, and a black Spawn T-shirt with Spawn's head on the front and the logo on the back. Other items available include two pins, a limited lenticular morphing card, and a messenger bag with a screen printed image of the Clown and Spawn on the flap.

Several other letters asked the question, "How can I get a job in animation?" I posed that question to Catherine Winder, producer of the animated series, and Eric Radomski, the series' supervising director. Catherine began her animation career in Japan working for Walt Disney in Toyko [illegible] communication and production between the Japanese studio and the Disney offices in the US as she was fluent in Japanese. After returning to the US, she held positions at Hanna Barbara and at Colossal Pictures as the producer of MTV's Aeon Flux. "Right now, the animation industry is booming," expressed Catherine. "The first step would be to take a job as a production assistant or production coordinator...you've got to be someone who's willing to do anything. Someone who has a lot of energy and initiative...be gutsy and get your resume out there." Catherine also indicated that "there are so many jobs right now...take some time to research which studios are doing what shows...be knowledgeable in advance [and] try to understand how the animation process works as it's a worldwide process."

Eric Radomski has been working in animation for 11 years now and began his career and education in animation at the bottom end of the production ladder cleaning cels on Winnie the Pooh and a Day for Eeyore. He then moved on to such projects as a painter on Warner Brothers' Tiny Toons. Eric then moved on to the animated Batman series working [illegible] over 85 episodes and the full length feature [illegible]. With respect to landing a job in the animation [illegible] Eric's advise is "draw all the time on every-[illegible]s you can get your hands on...be versatile in your drawing ability as you never know what type of animation you might work on." "Know how to draw Bugs Bunny as well as Spawn...[for] to make a good living [in this industry] you will need to branch from one project to another." Eric's most important piece of advise is "know that you want to be in animation for the right reasons...there are times when it feels just like any other job...do it because you like it." "There are times it can be just a job so do it because you love it."

By the time this article goes to press the airing of the animation series will be just around the corner. Let us know what you think of the first episode.

Spawn The Animated Series
P.O. Box 27228
Tempe, AZ
85285-7228



McFarlane Toys

END CAP

Spawn End Cap
P.O. Box 27228
Tempe, AZ 85285-7228
e-mail: McFarlane.Toys@compuserve.com

Any day now you should be seeing the ***McFarlane Monster*** series on the shelves, in most stores in America (the other countries will follow shortly). As our first venture into the non-superhero area, we're hoping the general public will be as pleased with the final product as we are. These figures, while a bit smaller than the rest of our lines, have all the detail you've come to expect from **McFarlane Toys.** Plus, they come with complete dioramas.

The first one is the old favorite: **Frankenstein.** The figure comes strapped down in a lab table that swivels, has a bio-electronic rejuvenator with bolts, removable limbs with an EXTRA head and brain, bookcase with candlestick, and of course, Igor with a bonesaw, pliers, and scalpel.

The **Hunchback** figure we're making is *not* that sanitized cartoon version from Disney. Oh, no, our monster goes back to the original Victor Hugo novel, with a "ringing" bell, rope swing, catapult with launching gargoyle, and an executioner figure. And check out the HUGE axe that guy carries.

Next up is the ever-popular **Dracula.** This figure pulls out all the stops! It has a stake that fits into his chest, cloth cape, a coffin that he fits into, and a crypt that rotates and transforms him into his evil bat form. Both the bat and "human" form have ball-jointed arms to flap and menace with. And did we mention the haunted graveyard setting?

Last up is the **Werewolf.** This time we go after the wolfman from legend, with a decidedly macabre twist. This is not some pastoral scene with a cute cuddly furball... no. The hollow tree swings open and displays a hapless victim complete with day-glo hunter's outfit. And his arms, legs, and even head "pop" off, revealing some wonderful bony protrusions.

All of these figures come on blister cards, in a much wider package than we've used before. We hope you'll agree, these figures are all definite "must haves" for your collection.

Next month, the ***Spawn Series 8*** figures should be available. There has been one modification from some of the initial characters you've heard about. The figure known as **Buffalo** is now known as **Sabre.** He's still a big hulking brute that menaces the **Renegade Spawn,** but he just underwent a name change. Any similarities between him and the team that plays hockey in the state of New York is purely coincidental.

On to the letters...

Jeffrey Padilla of gnatnet.net asked which costs more, clamshells or card backs. He wrote that some of our figures are so heavy, they seem to tear right out of the package. While our initial line of figures were clamshelled, they really cost a lot more to package that way, not to mention all that wasted plastic. We've toyed with using pop-rivets to hold the blisters on the card, and now use a much stronger glue than before. Sure, under some hot, humid, and pressured conditions the blister may still separate from the card, but overall we seem to have it fixed. But it's an ongoing process to constantly improve even the packaging we use. Note the names of the figures now on both the upper left *and* bottom right of the card. This makes it easier to shuffle through the pegs at the store, looking for any new figures.

Zakia Falk of Brooklyn NY mentioned that she didn't want to become a member of the toy club initially, but then she saw the **Red Angela** her boyfriend bought. She was shocked to see how nice it was, and wondered if she could still get one. Zakia, we're sorry but there aren't any more **Red Angelas** left. We sold out of them (twice) and now have switched over to a new figure as a "Gold Level" premium. Each special figure is produced for only a limited time before we switch over to the next premium. After that, we can no longer offer it. But there will be other cool figures in the next few flyers, so just keep an eye open.

Tony Garcia from Bronx, NY wondered why we made the **Spawn III** figure with light-up eyes, but *not* replaceable batteries. If it's any help, we tested the lights and they stay on for about 3 days straight. But because of the way the cape attached on, the decision was made to not have *another* batch of screws holding the battery in place. However, we have listened and the upcoming figures (including the talking **Malebolgia**...more about him in later columns) will have replaceable batteries. We've always tried to learn from our mistakes and from your requests, and this is one of those times. Thanks for all the comments, Tony.

One last note to pass along, the ***McFarlane Toys*** line is now available at all **MusicLand** stores, watch for 'em. See ya next month.

Spawn™ and ©1997 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All rights reserved.
Todd McFarlane's Monsters™ and ©1997 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All rights reserved.
McFarlane Toys and ©1997 McFarlane Toys. All rights reserved.
Sculpted by Jason Wright, Paul Johnson, Todd McFarlane and Steve Wolfhard.

MICK GRAY

All Spawn® Series 8 character names and likenesses are TM and © 1997 Todd McFarlane Productions Inc. All rights reserved.
McFarlane Toys and its logo are ® and © 1997 TMP International, Inc. All rights reserved.
Spawn and its logo are registered trademarks of Todd McFarlane Productions Inc. All rights reserved.

The Legendary MONSTERS are *Alive.*

Todd McFarlane's MONSTERS™
are now available on toy shelves everywhere.

Frankenstein IS ONE OF FOUR CLASSIC MONSTERS IN THE SERIES.

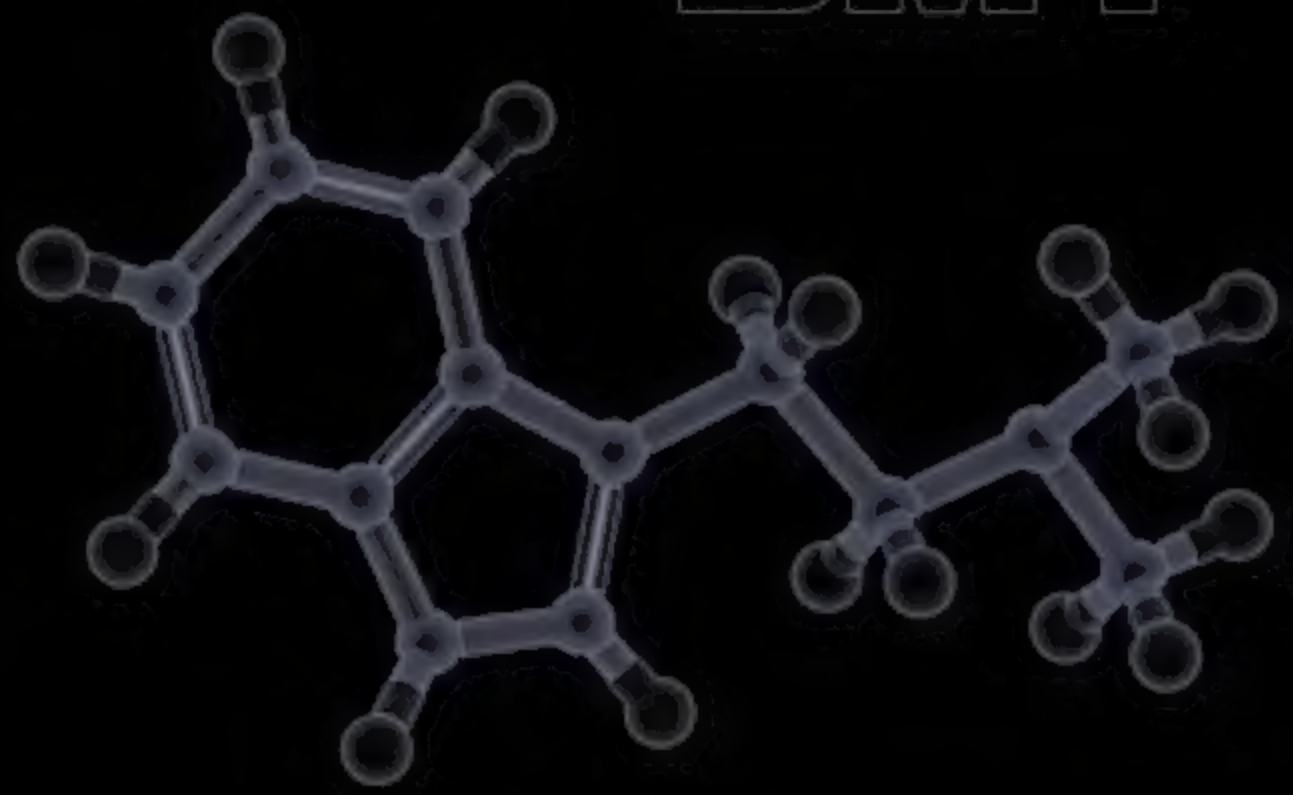
McFARLANE TOYS®

Todd McFarlane's Monsters and its logo are TM and © 1997 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All rights reserved.
McFarlane Toys and its logo are ® and © 1997 TMP International, Inc. All rights reserved.

www.spawn.com

DarthScanner

DMT



Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline